



Azraai

AZRAAI EFFENDI

Azraai was born and grew up in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, moving to the USA at the age of 19 for his studies. In 2010, Azraai came to Dundee for his Master's degree, being employed by shell a year later, meeting his wife and moving to Aberdeen. Azraai has a young daughter: him and his wife involve her in the Malay culture and traditions, also teaching her the language.



[In Malaysia] I would say almost everybody would be able to speak Malay... whether you're born a Malay or Indian or Chinese or any other race, you tend to be able to speak Malay. So that's why I think I speak Malay because I was born in a Malay family... that's my mother tongue. And although having said that, I went to an English preschool... [My dad] was an English teacher so I think when he had us, as children, he tended to want us to learn English. So we speak English quite a bit at home as well. But then, because my mum speaks mostly Malay, we get a chance to speak both languages.

[For my daughter] I do want her to know the language... if we ever go back to Malaysia or, if she fancies working in Malaysia at some point, it's good for her to be able to at least understand the language [...] when she gets to speak to her grandparents, they tend to kind of share more of the traditional Malay songs and nursery rhymes... So, she gets exposed to that as well... Once in a while, we'll get sent a Malay book... so we read Malay to her. Even though she can't read Malay, she listens to it.

Even though I'm fluent in English, I do speak Malay with my wife because there are, I suppose, parts of conversations or certain topics of conversation that feel more natural when you speak your mother tongue...

You know, not everything delivers with the right impact if you're speaking in a foreign language. So, I think that's probably where I kind of make sure that I don't forget the language, I suppose.

I think Aberdeen itself, because it's got different dialects, I think that helped them kind of accept more diversity in languages because they themselves know when they speak English, they don't sound like English down south.



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